Judicial probe in Gaisal Rail Mishap

527. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption, Judicial Probe into Gaisal rail mishap-5 Rly Officers suspended, which appeared in 'Hindustan Times' dated the 6th August, 1999;

(b) whether the suspended officials and the General Manager who was asked to proceed on leave as per the report, have been taken back;

(c) if so, the reason therefor; and

(d) if not, the specific charges and status of enquiry into the charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The concerned officers have not been indicated in any manner in the interim Inquiry Report of the statutory inquiry conducted by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(d) Does not arise.

Safety net in Pooja Express blast

528. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police have denied any responsibility in the Pooja Express blast;

(b) if so, the details of powers assigned to both the Forces;

(c) whether in the absence of any clear cut powers, the safety net has not been followed by both the Forces; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard and to ensure safety net to commuters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railway and village Police), is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains is, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Police. A separate wing of State Police called the Government Railway Police (GRP) deals with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways.

The Railway Protection Force (RDF) had been constituted under the Railway Act, 1957 for better protection and security of railway property and for matters connected therewith. The primary duty of the force is to protect and safeguard the railway property, which includes the property, owned by the railway administration and the goods, luggage, parcels etc. booked for transportation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Though the maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including Railway stations and running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned but RPF co-ordinates with the GRP for ensuring better security to the Railway passengers and their belongings. The following steps have been taken by RPF for improving the passenger safety:

(1) Co-ordination meetings are being held between Railway managers, RPF officers and State Police officers at the Zonal and Divisional level. Meeting is also being held at the level of Railway Board.

(2) RPF Officers are holding regular co-ordination meetings with their counter-parts on the GRP and Civil Police.

(3) Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.

(4) Joint Strategies for dealing with anti-social elements operating on Railways have been chalked out by the GRP and RPF.

(5) RPF Sniffer dogs, wherever available, are being deployed at Railway platforms, yards etc. to sniff out explosive substances. RPF men are being trained in the identification and detection of explosive devices.

Modifying Railway Recruitment Network

†529. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the daily "The Pioneer" dated 4th September, 1999 under the caption Recuritment system blamed for Railway safety lapses;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railway Safety Review Committee has stressed the need to improve the Railway recruitment network by modifying the same; and

(c) if so, the suggestions given by the said Committee and the decision taken by Government to implement those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The recommendations of the Railway Safety Review Committee and the present status are enclosed in the Statement.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.